

SUMMARIES

**A Study on Japanese History by K. Rathgen and Y. Sakatani:
Collaboration of a Teacher and a Student in Meiji Era**

NOZAKI, Toshirō

Karl Rathgen (1856–1921) was the first German professor who taught political science to Japanese students. He and Gustav Schmoller, his brother-in-law and the most famous economist in Germany, were eager to know the economical and political conditions of East Asia, which concerned the interest of Germany.

Rathgen came to Japan in 1882 and began to research Japanese history, culture, population and economical circumstances and finance. He collaborated with some of his students to clarify Japanese historical facts and national economy. Y. Sakatani, the most capable among them, examined the historical records in Edo period and explained the relation between Mikado and Shogun in full detail. By reason of the ideological circumstances of his time, Sakatani could not make the results of his studies public, but Rathgen, after his return to Germany in 1890, wrote how Mikado was restricted and controlled by the cabinet of the Shogun, and influenced German Japanologists.

***Yashiki-chi* (Housing Land) and Ward Community
in Kusatsu-shuku, Ōmi Province**

IDE, Tsutomu

In academic circles of history since the 1980s, it has been generally agreed that the ward (*chō*) was the most fundamental unit of urban society in early modern Japan. The ward has been deeply studied, particularly in relation to *yashiki-chi* (housing lands). The studies demonstrate that ownership of *yashiki-chi* functioned as the basis for status and *chō-yaku* (a kind of labor obligation) exclusively in three major cities (Edo, Osaka, and Kyoto) and other castle towns, which were formed by Tokugawa legislation.

Zaikata-machi, which were also formed and administratively treated as a village by Tokugawa legislation, consisted of several wards as well. The wards of *zaikata-machi* developed independently in early modern Japanese society and were similar to those of the

major cities and other castle towns in terms of form and function. Their urbanism has recently drawn the attention of scholars interested in the historical studies of cities and towns.

In spite of the trend, however, no study of relation between *yashiki-chi* and the ward in *zaikata-machi* has been conducted. It would reveal the urbanism of *zaikata-machi*. In this paper, therefore, the question will be discussed, taking Kusatsu-shuku, Ōmi province for an example of *zaikata-machi*. It shows that the nine wards in Kusatsu-shuku took part in the transactions of *zaikata-machi*, thereby owing *yashiki-chi* indirectly within their own areas, and demonstrates that the wards' indirect ownerships of *yashiki-chi* was a crucial factor for the formation of the wards. It concludes that wards of *zaikata-machi* like Kusatsu-shuku had urban characteristics along with those of the three major cities and other castle towns.

Mutsu Munemitsu's Role in the "Prostitute Liberation Law"

MATSUNOBE, Shinsuke

The "Prostitute Liberation Law" (Meiji 5 Cabinet declaration No. 295) proclaimed on October 2, 1872 (Meiji 5) forbade human trafficking and indentured servitude which formed the basis of prostitution. The Ministry of Finance played a major role in the creation of this law since it was based on an opinion document which the Ministry of Finance submitted on July 30, 1872 (hereafter "July 30 Ministry of Finance opinion document") to the Seiin (the topmost office of the cabinet).

Previously it was believed that the "July 30 Ministry of Finance opinion document" sought to dissolve the premodern state-regulated prostitution based on human trafficking and create a modernistic state-regulated prostitution system. However, there was a major defect in earlier studies in that it failed to take into account important material necessary to understand the intention the "July 30 Ministry of Finance opinion document," specifically two letters sent by Mutsu Munemitsu to Sugiura Yuzuru on August 13 and August 19, 1872 (Meiji 5). This paper analyzes these two letters in order to reexamine the intention behind the "July 30 Ministry of Finance opinion document."

**An Essay on Dazai Osamu's "Bishōjo":
From the Perspective of Greece Mythology**

AOKI, Kyōko

Relatively few studies have been published on "Bishōjo" ("Beautiful Girl"), a work from the middle of Dazai Osamu's career as a novelist. Although Nakayama Kazuko, in her essay "Consideration of Bishōjo," has been pointed out that Botticelli's "Birth of Venus" and "Spring" have served as models of "Bishōjo," there is virtually no study on its contents. Although the motif of "Bishōjo" is related to "The Birth of Venus," the former is related, not simply to Botticelli's painting, it is deeply involved with metaphors of "pearl" and "flower" associated with the image of Venus in Greek mythology, as well as the myth of "Diana and Actaeon" concerned with the glimpse of Venus in ablution. It is constituted through the expressions from the article "Idiocy," citations from an essay by Shiga Naoya, and a passage from Merimee. In it we can glimpse Dazai's image of a country woman as "pure", "ingenuous" and "enchanting" found in "Inaka" ("Countryside"), another of his works from mid-career.

**Research into Environmental Awareness and Action
in order to Build a Sustainable Society**

MIZOGUCHI, Tsuguo

In the second half of the 20th century, the developed world achieved high economic growth and rapid developments in science and technology in pursuit of a rewarding, convenient, and comfortable standard of living. However, such development came at a price, producing a massive impact on nature and the environment on a continental and global scale, including global warming and the destruction of the stratospheric ozone layer, to say nothing of the effect on our local environments.

In the 21st century, we are reflecting on this development, focusing on human lifestyles and ways to sustain natural diversity and a healthy environment. We have investigated what kind of role could be played by the concept of social harmony found in Bud-

dhism.

Looking at current economic processes, science and technology developments, and lifestyles, we investigated the formation of a recycling-based society that does not waste limited resources and energy, reorganization of the previous competition-driven capitalist economies, and development methods that take into account environmental burdens, rather than research prioritized only according to science and technology objectives. The research used the following methods: 1) review of the differences between Japan and other countries with regard to factors such as environmental philosophy, way of life, history, and religious philosophy, through a survey in Japan and exchange of ideas with overseas experts, and 2) a questionnaire on environmental awareness and behavior sent to students in Japan and in other countries in Asia, North America, and Europe, to gather background information on lifestyles in the 21st century and beyond.

For method 1, we have conducted local surveys in Germany, the UK and China. We have also conducted a questionnaire survey comparing Japan, Germany, the UK and China, which produced many new findings. We plan to conduct similar surveys in a number of countries, evaluating religious philosophy, culture, customs, climate, and other factors, to establish moral principles and lifestyles that can preserve the beauty of nature. We will also analyze how the concept of social harmony found in Buddhism is involved.

We are also investigating religions that teach moral principles, but we have yet to obtain any specific results on the relationship between the environment and religion. We will investigate the degree of religious penetration and attitudes towards environmental management in various countries. We also plan to investigate why the concept of social harmony found in Buddhism hardly exists any more in Japan.

Technologies Which Bring People in True Happiness

NAITŌ, Masaaki

Almost everyone today recognizes that our society is now facing a revolutionary change. Since it is said that societies and technologies develop together, today's technology system is also requested to change in its basic nature. What then is the direction of the alteration and what are its real background? In order to understand the issue clearly, we have

to begin with a historical review of the relationship between societies and technologies. For this purpose, a wide spectrum of a discussion will be needed from the point of view of "History of the Technologies." Yet, in this paper, I have focused on the problem of an environmentally friendly technologies necessary to realize a sustainable society. As the result, I propose a technology system "by the people and for the people" as the only possible tool to realizing a sustainable society. This is termed "citizen participatory technology system."

Such technology system is similar to the "appropriate technology" proposed in 1970's. Since the time was not yet ripe for it, the "appropriate technology" was hardly able to change society. Now that the situation has greatly changed, with the global biosphere collapsing as to threaten the sustainability of human beings, the necessity of a technological revolution is urgent.

Development of Polymer Chemistry for a Sustainable Society

HAYASHI, Takanori

Scientific technology has made a remarkable progress in the twentieth century, and our way of life has become very convenient. It is for this reason that this century has been called "the century of scientific technology". Plastics, which were invented in the late 1930's, came into our lives immediately and become a popular and indispensable material all over the world. However, mass production and mass consumption of plastics caused some serious environmental problems such as waste plastic materials and endocrine disrupter. Most of the synthetic polymer materials (plastics) remained without decomposing itself. In this paper I briefly describe recent studies of polymer chemistry in the environmental field and try to clarify how it can contribute to the construction of a sustainable society.

Chapter 1 describes the concept of green chemistry and introduces some studies on polymer chemistry. They are classified into two groups: conservation technology and environmentally sound technology. Conservation technology can be considered the attempt to redress damage (minus stage to zero point) while environmentally sound technology can be considered as a maintaining technology (zero remaining).

In Chapter 2, the understanding of the scientific technology and the relationship be-

tween technology and environment are investigated through questionnaires to university students. The analysis of the questionnaires indicated that there is a deep gap between specialists and students.

The reason for the serious estrangement between technology and the public is considered in Chapter 3. Here I discuss the problems associated with twentieth-century type technology by referring to ethical norms required of technologists.

In Chapter 4, three important concepts for a sustainable society are discussed: system, sense of values, and technology. In order to construct a sustainable society, these three factors should be integrated organically. The twentieth-century type technology is sometimes regarded as the factor in environmental destruction. I propose a new concept for the coming technology. It is the so-called “the spiral type technology” compared with “the line type technology” developed in twentieth century. “The spiral type technology” is intimately associated with ethics and related with public acceptance. Since a feedback system is contained in its concept, this new technology will be improved spirally. Moreover, polymer chemistry has a great possibility to become the traction of the new technology because of its individual characteristics as materials. In this field, “environmentally improved materials” (zero point to plus stage) will be the future concept for the sustainability.

**The Significance of “Store Replacement” in a Commercial Strip:
The Actual Conditions of Store Replacement in Fushimi Ōtesuji in Kyoto
and the Reaction of the Store Owner Association**

ENSHU, Atsuko

A main commercial strip can be understood as a group of individual stores, mainly retail ones, which are not only gathered together physically but also linked closely. That is to say, a main commercial strip functions as a general commercial institution serving all types of consumers with a variety of needs through the linkage of stores with different kinds of specialties supplementing each other. Thus we can say that a commercial strip constitutes an organic whole.

Accordingly, the increase in store vacancy in a commercial strip, which is increasing in Japan today, is not a problem of the individual store but a matter of the metabolic process

of a commercial strip as a whole. In this regard, it is important to note that some studies have revealed that store replacement is not morbid but a normal process in all commercial districts. However, in many cases store replacement as a metabolic process does not work smoothly, but causes store vacancies and weakens the viability of a commercial strip from within. Based on this premise, this study analyzes store replacement in Fushimi Ōtesuji in Kyoto and considers the causes of its functional disorder as a metabolic process and reflects on the social settings necessary for promoting store replacement (i.e., the situation in which a new store opens immediately on the site of closing store). My conclusions can be summarized as follows:

1. Although most commercial strips are suffering from increasing store vacancy in Kyoto, Fushimi Ōtesuji remains viable and has no vacancy even today. However, business termination caused by store closing and moving out has not been rare in the past 50 years in the strip and it has notably increased in the past few years.

2. Business terminations in Fushimi Ōtesuji have been followed by new store openings. As a result, it has not caused store vacancy.

3. Many store owners in Fushimi Ōtesuji have actively developing their business and have even been transforming them into other types of businesses before they are led to bankruptcy. This has contributed greatly to the low rate of store vacancies.

4. Geographic and social conditions are important as a background of active metabolism in Fushimi Ōtesuji. However, the role of the store owner association is also an important factor. This is obvious when we consider the fact that adjacent commercial strips have suffered from store vacancies.

5. The store owner association has played the following two roles. First, it began to develop countermeasures before store vacancies became obvious. Second, it has actively worked to strengthen the organic unity of the strip and has given assistance to individual stores. As a result, the quality of the market place remained attractive enough for possible new store owners even if store closing would continuously occur.

6. These enthusiastic activities were spurred by the event in 1960s in which store owners studied a future vision of the strip and shared their images of the strip's development. The fireproof commercial strip plan, although not actually implemented, presented a possible image of the strip developing vertically as well as horizontally, and encouraged individual stores to create their own development plans.

7. This analysis of the metabolic process of Fushimi Ōtesuji shows the importance of transforming catabolism (store closing or business transformation) into assimilation (entry of newcomers). Therefore, in revitalizing a commercial strip, we should treat it not as a mere group of individual stores, and focus our attention on the functions it performs as an organic whole.